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A jury acquits man of stalking reality star Kendall Jenner. 16


Motive sought in Temple attacks. 2

NoLibs isn't just for hipsters anymore. 22-23



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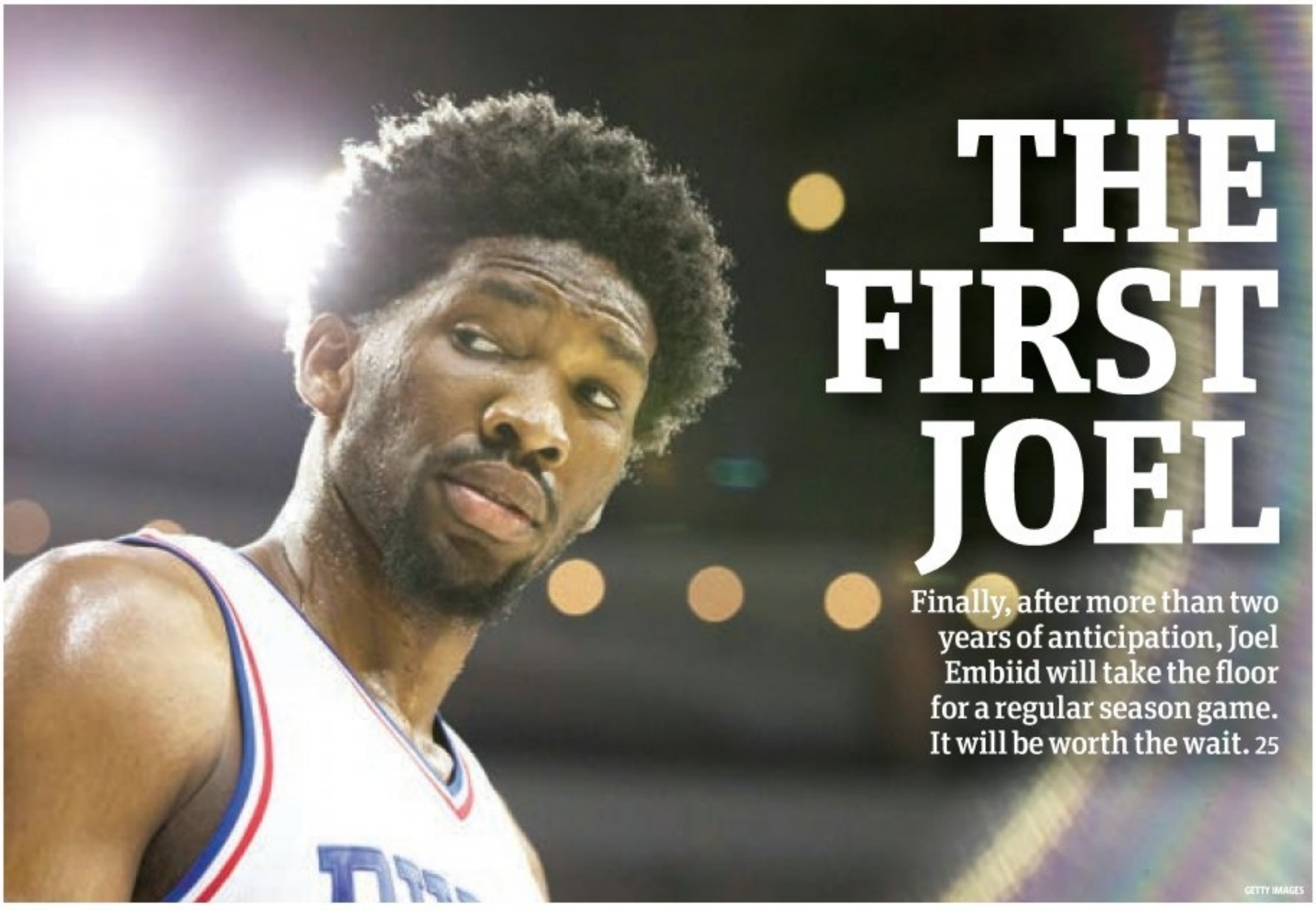

# THE FIRST JOEL

Finally, after more than two years of anticipation, Joel Embiid will take the floor for a regular season game. It will be worth the wait. 25

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## 3 things you need to know

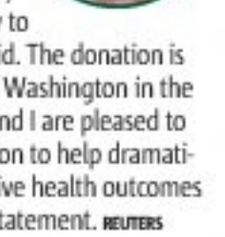
### MEDIA REPORTS: COLIN POWELL WILL VOTE FOR CLINTON

Colin Powell, who served as secretary of state in Republican President George W. Bush's administration, said he would vote for Hillary Clinton in the Nov. 8 presidential election, according to Newsday newspaper. Powell, who made the announcement at an event hosted by a Long Island business group in Woodbury, New York, said Republican Donald Trump was "not qualified" and had sold Americans a "bill of goods" that he could not deliver, Newsday said. "He has insulted America in one way almost every day," Powell said of Trump, according to the newspaper. "He has insulted Latino-Americans. He has insulted African-Americans. He has insulted women. He has insulted his own party. He has insulted our allies around the world one by one. He has insulted veterans," Powell said. REUTERS

### ALERT LEVEL RAISED FOR ALASKA VOLCANO AFTER EXPLOSION DETECTED

2 Scientists raised the alert level for a remote Aleutian volcano after an explosion was detected on the mountain and heard by residents of a tiny village some 45 miles away, a monitoring website said. Cleveland Volcano, a 5,676-foot peak on the uninhabited Chuginadak Island, about 940 miles southwest of Anchorage, was raised to orange from yellow by the Alaska Volcano Observatory. The orange code is issued when a volcano is "exhibiting heightened or escalating unrest with increased potential of eruption," according to the observatory. A red code is issued when an eruption is imminent or underway. The observatory said that an explosion was detected on Cleveland by both infrasound and seismic data and heard by residents of Nikolski, a settlement of less than 50 people on Umnak Island about 45 miles to the east. REUTERS

### BILL GATES FOUNDATION GIVES $210M TO SEATTLE-BASED UNIVERSITY



3 Microsoft founder Bill Gates through his foundation has donated $210 million to an initiative based at the University of Washington in Seattle aimed at improving people's health around the world. The gift from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, named after the billionaire and his wife, will be used to construct a building at the university to house its Population Health Initiative, the school said. The donation is one of the largest contributions to the University of Washington in the 155-year-old institution's history, it said. "Melinda and I are pleased to make this investment in the University of Washington to help dramatically accelerate their 25-year vision to achieve positive health outcomes for populations around the world," Gates said in a statement. REUTERS

**METRO'S NEWS QUIZ**

You read Metro to stay on top of the news. Now's your chance to find out how much you know. Take our daily news quiz to test your knowledge by going to **www.metro.us/news-quiz** to submit your answers.

1. What did Wawa recently announce it will do in Center City?

2. How long has it been since the Union appeared in an MLS playoff game?

3. Aussie singer-songwriter Ry X struck cover gold when which superstar covered his single "Berlin" for BBC Radio One?

# Mob attacks at Temple leave police searching for motive

The school is pledging to do more, but some think students were targeted.

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Temple students walking between classes on a spring day in 2015. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Temple University is vowing to work more with police to prevent further incidents like the attacks on students last weekend that made international news.

President Richard Englert sent a message to the Temple community Tuesday night noting that the attacks were "unsettling" and promising to work "diligently" with the city and local law enforcement to protect students. He also said Temple is one of the safest schools in the region.

Police said the attacks came after an Instagram post coordinating a "meet-up," but no clear motive was reported as to why some of the of 150 to 200 Philly teenagers attacked at least six students and a Temple cop. One teen punched Philly police horse in the face.

Four teens were arrested.

"They were definitely targeting Temple students," said Mike K., owner of Pizano's Pizzeria on Oxford Street.

Mike K. said he saw teenagers attacking a group of students outside his pizza shop on Friday night and ran out to break up the fight, bringing the students inside his shop. One of those students was the daughter of Metro US circulation director Joe Lauletta.

He accused Temple of being more interested in trying to protect their reputation than their students.

"They're gonna say it's under control. It's not," he said. "These parents could sue Temple for not having enough security. Penn and Drexel don't have these kind of problems."

Don Williams, a local barber, said that youths in the neighborhood are getting increasingly rowdy, but that he doesn't think anyone was targeted specifically.

"The question is, 'What are they on?'" he said, noting that he heard some kids were on drugs like K2, the potent synthetic marijuana which is actually legal in Pennsylvania.

"They just want some place to go. When there's too many of them, somebody wants to show off," he said. "So they start a ruckus."

Williams doesn't think Temple students were specifically targeted.

"I don't think it's any particular group. It's just anyone they can attack," he said. "I bet you half of that group wasn't there for anything like that."

Charles Cannon, a Temple alumnus who lives in the area, said he was on Broad Street and walked through a crowd of about 100 youths around 8 p.m. with his girlfriend.

"Nothing happened to us, nobody harassed us. Later when I got home, I saw the news articles. It was a bit surprising," he said. "When I was there it didn't look like a flash mob. It looked like a bunch of people waiting for a movie to start."

The only tension he was aware of was that his friend heard some Temple students yelling "All lives matter" at the teens.

"I guess they thought it was a Black Lives Matter protest? … That might have created some hostility," he said.

Cannon said there is tension between the impoverished communities of North Philly just outside campus and the college students.

"I think Temple needs to foster more of a community," he said. "When they're talking to students, I think there needs to be more education that they are guests in a community. That might help the tensions, if students are more respectful of the neighborhood and the people that live there."

# More Wawas coming to Center City

Wawa is planning to expand its presence in Center City, and is considering locations for two of its convenience stores, sources told the Philadelphia Business Journal.

One store will reportedly occupy 7,000 square feet at the East Market project at 12th and Market streets. The second will be a bi-level, 4,500-square-foot space at the corner of 13th and Chestnut streets in a space currently occupied by the I. Goldberg Army Navy store, the business publication reported, citing multiple anonymous sources.

Currently, Wawa operates four Center City locations, including its flagship Philadelphia store at Broad and Walnut streets, which opened in September 2015. A location at 19th and Market streets is reportedly expected to open by Thanksgiving, as well. ALEXIS SACHDEV

People get gas and other goods at a Wawa gas station and store. GETTY IMAGES

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# Rail Park project on track with additional $3.5M state grant

The first phase of construction is scheduled to finish by late 2017.

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FRIENDS OF RAIL PARK

Moves to create a Parisian-style promenade along the old Reading Viaduct recently gained a financial boost with a new state grant, and planners are getting excited about the future look of the area.

"It's going to change everything," said Jeff Barg, associate director of planning at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. "It's a place that will really highlight the ecology of the neighborhood and the way the ecology shapes the neighborhood."

The state recently added a $3.5 million grant to $5 million allotted for the project from the Center City District and private donors. The grant allows the Friends of the Rail Park organization to begin the first phase of transforming the Reading Viaduct.

When completed, the park will be similar to the High Line in New York, but even more similar to a rail park in Paris.

"The High Line is an easy reference for it," said Friends of the Rail Park Vice President Michael Garden. "[The Rail Park] is more similar to La Promenade Plantée in Paris."

Paris' own railway park was inaugurated in 1993. The High Line in New York, built on a historic freight rail line, opened to the public in 2009.

Philadelphia's future Rail Park will eventually extend three miles from Brewerytown to Northern Liberties. The long-term construction plans include a bike lane, room for retail shops and plenty of green space.

Friends of the Rail Park is trying to raise awareness and support for the project. Over the summer, they tested the location with a concept that appeals to many Philadelphians: a beer garden.

The PHS ran a pop-up beer garden at a choice location along the Reading Viaduct at 10th and Hamilton streets. This is also the site for the first phase of construction.

"We weren't sure what to expect going in," said Barg. "We tried to highlight all of the mystery in the neighborhood."

Barg called the beer garden a success and hopes the surrounding businesses profited from their proximity to it.

"It drew a different type of crowd than what I would say this neighborhood is used to gathering," said Tony Montagnaro of W/N W/N Coffee Bar. "People were engaged, but it was a business class kind of crowd- lots of button up shirts and suits. My gut reaction to it is that it was just another beer garden."

Montagnaro also co-owns a café at 931 Spring Garden St. He said the café didn't see a significant increase in business while the beer garden was open just a few blocks away, but believes that the eventual transformation will benefit the neighborhood.

"I feel positively about there being public space here and making use of something that has been rotting," said Montagnaro.

The first phase of construction is scheduled to finish by late 2017.

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## BRIEFS

**Prince Albert visits Philly to check out recent purchase**
Prince Albert II of Monaco on Tuesday dropped by to see the house on Henry Avenue that he recently purchased — the home where his mother Grace Kelly had lived.

The prince inspected the home for about an hour, according to NBC10 Philadelphia.

His mother, the Oscar-winning actress, grew up in the house and accepted a marriage proposal there from his father, Prince Rainier III.

Albert bought the property for $754,000 and hasn't decided what to do with the Colonial-style house.

One option, according to news reports, is to use it as offices for the prince's charitable foundation. It's unlikely that the site will become a museum, sources said. GARY KANE

Prince Albert II at the 2016 Princess Grace Awards Gala in Manhattan. GETTY IMAGES

CREATIVE COMMONS

# Academy shuts down residential program after teen death

The residential treatment program at Wordsworth Academy closed following notification by the state Department of Human Services.

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A residential treatment program at a Philadelphia school for students with behavioral challenges and disabilities has closed, more than a week after a teen died following an altercation with staff members.

The program is ceasing operations following notification by the state Department of Human Services' Bureau of Human Service Licensing, Debbie Albert, a spokeswoman for Wordsworth Academy, told NBC10.

"Wordsworth has a long history in serving youth and families and we remain committed to our mission," Albert wrote in a news release. "We plan to use this time to improve our Residential Treatment program by enhancing operations, staff training and our residential facility."

The program serves 90 children, all of whom will be transferred to other facilities.

All other Wordsworth programs continue to operate, Albert said.

A 17-year-old student died on Oct. 13 at the academy in Philadelphia's Wynnefield Heights section.

Sources close to the police investigation have told NBC10 that the student had an iPod that didn't belong to him and began fighting with staff when confronted about it.

The student lost consciousness while being restrained by staff.

Medical staff administered first aid and called for Philadelphia medics, sources told NBC10.

"Although we are shocked and saddened by this event, it is an ongoing investigation, and we are unable to comment further at this time," said Albert.

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Route 287 on an elevated section of the highway over the Wanaque River.
GOOGLE MAPS

# NJ boys survive 100-ft. fall with suicidal father

John Spincken, 37, was found dead at the scene, but his 1- and 3-year-old sons were alive and taken to a hospital for treatment, according to Christopher DePuyt, a police captain in Pequannock, where Spincken lived.

Two young boys survived a 100-foot fall after their father leaped off a New Jersey bridge with them in his arms, police said on Tuesday.

The father, identified as John Spincken, jumped from an overpass along Interstate 287 in Wanaque, New Jersey, sometime after 7 p.m. on Monday in what police have described as a suicide.

The 1-year-old suffered a concussion, a bruised lung and a fractured rib, while his 3-year-old brother has a concussion, DePuyt said. Both were listed in fair condition at the intensive care unit at St. Joseph's Medical Center in Paterson and were expected to make a full recovery.

"It's a miracle, honestly," DePuyt said, adding that the boys' fall may have been slowed by foliage in the wooded area beneath the bridge.

A friend of Spincken's wife called the police just before 7 p.m., saying the couple had an argument before the husband threatened to harm the children and left with them in his car.

Police from several departments worked with AT&T, using Spincken's cellphone signal to find him. One officer suggested checking the bridge, where they discovered Spincken's empty car, DePuyt said.

The state had installed 10-to-12-foot preventive fencing on both sides after several previous suicide attempts, but Spincken may have used his car to climb over, DePuyt said.

REUTERS

## BRIEF

**U.S. Catholic health group hit with complaint over sterilization ban**

The largest Roman Catholic health organization in the United States was accused in a federal complaint on Tuesday of failing to provide appropriate care by refusing on religious grounds to allow a pregnant woman with a brain tumor to be sterilized.

The complaint was filed by the American Civil Liberties Union with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office for Civil Rights. It asks the health department to investigate the policies on sterilization of Ascension Health and its subsidiary, Genesys Health System, to see if they violate federal medical care regulations.

Jessica Mann's doctors had recommended she not get pregnant again due to the possible strain the pregnancy would put on her health because of a pre-existing brain tumor. Mann was pregnant at the time.

The doctors recommended in early 2015 that she undergo tubal ligation when she had her C-section procedure, according to the ACLU complaint.

"As a Catholic health-care system, we follow the ethical and religious directives of the Church. Beyond that, we can't comment on this patient's particular case," Johnny Smith, an Ascension Health spokesman, said in a statement in response to the ACLU's complaint.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office for Civil Rights did not immediately respond to request for comment.

In 2015, a Genesys hospital in Michigan refused to allow the procedure to be performed on Mann, 34, citing religious directives, the ACLU complaint said.

REUTERS

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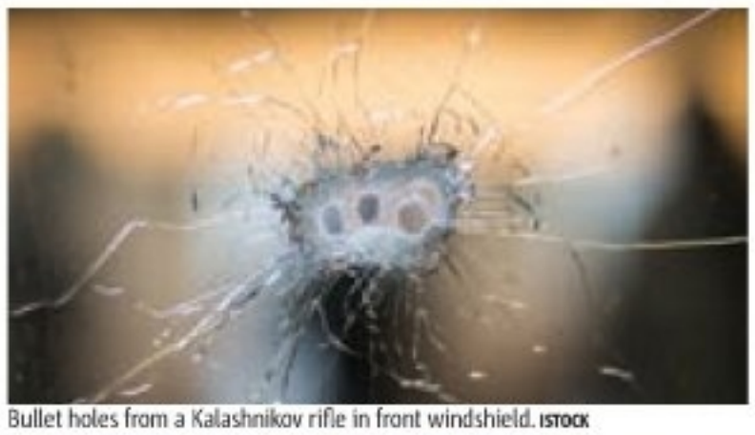
# Nearly 75 percent of guns used in crimes in NY come from other states


Bullet holes from a Kalashnikov rifle in front windshield. ISTOCK

Nearly three-fourths of all "crime guns" recovered by state law enforcement between 2010 and 2015 were purchased out-of-state, a new study found.

Lawmen seized 52,915 guns used in crimes in New York state during that time period, according to the report, "Target on Trafficking: Analysis of New York Crime Guns." Of those, 74 percent were purchased in other states.

"The data makes one thing abundantly clear: New York's strong gun laws are being undermined at every turn by lax laws in other states," said Attorney General Eric Schneiderman said Tuesday in releasing the report.

"It's time for the federal government — and other states — to take commonsense measures and ensure weak gun laws won't continue to take the lives of New Yorkers," he said.

More than half of the guns purchased out-of-state were from the so-called Iron Pipeline, the states along Interstate 95 with lax gun laws, particularly Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

Nearly nine out of 10 handguns used in New York state crimes were purchased in other states, the report states.

Among other findings in the report:

— Only 6 percent of the recovered guns were in the possession of the original buyer
— 57 percent of the total recovered guns were handguns
— 14 percent were rifles
— 11 percent were shotguns

The report is the first statewide study to breakdown data for recovered guns that have been connected to crimes. The study used data from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. NIKKI M. MASCALI

# Pumpkin show in China

People watch jack-o'-lanterns lighting up a dark evening on the street in a show in Shenyang, Liaoning Province of China. The show features a large number of hand-carved, illuminated pumpkin lanterns created by artists or sculptors to welcome the upcoming Halloween in Shenyang. To make jack-o'-lanterns, the inside flesh of pumpkins was scooped out and monstrous or comical faces were carved out of the rind to expose the hollow interior. GETTY IMAGES

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# Clinton warns supporters against complacency in US election

Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton GETTY IMAGES

Clinton received a further boost when Colin Powell, who served as Republican President George W. Bush's secretary of state, said he would vote for her, according to media reports.

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton warned her supporters on Tuesday against complacency as opinion polls show her holding a clear lead over Republican rival Donald Trump with exactly two weeks left until the Nov. 8 election.

Clinton told a rally in Florida, one of the battleground states where the election is likely to be decided, that Democrats cannot afford to slacken.

"I hope you will come out and vote because it's going to be a close election. Pay no attention to the polls. Don't forget, don't get complacent, because we've got to turn people out," she said in Coconut Creek, standing in front of a large sign reading "Vote Early."

An average of national polls on the RealClearPolitics website since mid-October gives Clinton a lead of more than 5 percentage points, as Trump fights off accusations that he groped women and faces heavy criticism for suggesting he might not accept the result of the election if he loses.

Trump denies the accusations of sexual misconduct and says the election is rigged against him, although he has not cited widely accepted evidence to back that up.

On Tuesday, Trump told Reuters that Clinton's plan for fixing the Syrian civil war would "lead to World War III," because of the potential for conflict with military forces from nuclear-armed Russia.

In an interview focused largely on foreign policy, Trump said defeating Islamic State is a higher priority than persuading Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to step down, playing down a long-held goal of U.S. policy.

Clinton has called for the establishment of a no-fly zone and "safe zones" on the ground in Syria to protect noncombatants.

The two candidates have sparred in recent days over the U.S.-backed Iraqi military push to take the northern Iraqi city of Mosul from Islamic State, which Trump described as a "total disaster."

"He's declaring defeat before the battle has even started," Clinton, a former secretary of state, said on Tuesday.

She urged supporters to take part in early voting, which began this week in Florida, likely to be one of the biggest prizes on election night. REUTERS

## BRIEF

**Trump says Clinton policy on Syria would lead to World War III**

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump said on Tuesday that Democrat Hillary Clinton's plan for Syria would "lead to World War III," because of the potential for conflict with military forces from nuclear-armed Russia.

In an interview focused largely on foreign policy, Trump said defeating Islamic State is a higher priority than persuading Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to step down, playing down a long-held goal of U.S. policy.

Trump questioned how Clinton would negotiate with Russian President Vladimir Putin after demonizing him, and blamed President Barack Obama for a downturn in U.S. relations with the Philippines under its new president, Rodrigo Duterte.

In addition, Trump bemoaned a lack of Republican unity behind his candidacy and said he would easily win the election if the party leaders would support him.

"If we had party unity, we couldn't lose this election to Hillary Clinton," he said.

On Syria's civil war, Trump said Clinton could drag the United States into a world war with a more aggressive posture toward resolving the conflict.

Clinton has called for the establishment of a no-fly zone and "safe zones" on the ground to protect noncombatants. Some analysts fear that protecting those zones could bring the United States into direct conflict with Russian warplanes.

"What we should do is focus on ISIS. We should not be focusing on Syria," said Trump as he dined on fried eggs and sausage links at his Trump National Doral Miami golf resort. "You're going to end up in World War III over Syria if we listen to Hillary Clinton," he said.

"You're not fighting Syria any more, you're fighting Syria, Russia and Iran, all right? Russia is a nuclear country, but a country where the nukes work as opposed to other countries that talk," he said. REUTERS

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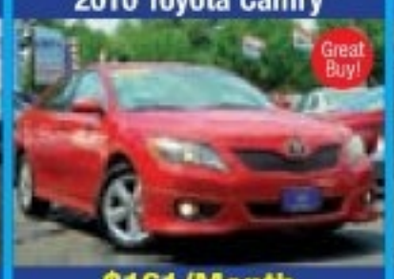


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# US government says benchmark 2017 Healthcare.gov premiums up 25 percent

The average monthly premium for the benchmark plan is rising to $302 from $242 in 2016, the Department of Health and Human Services said. The agency attributed the large increase to insurers adjusting their premiums to reflect two years of cost data that became available.

The average premium for benchmark 2017 Obamacare insurance plans sold on Healthcare.gov rose 25 percent compared with 2016, the U.S. government said on Monday, the biggest increase since the insurance first went on sale in 2013 for the following year.

The government provides income-based subsidies to about 85 percent of people enrolled, and those credits will increase with the higher premiums. It said 72 percent of consumers on Healthcare.gov will find plans with a premium of less than $75 per month.

Pennsylvanians are among those who buy individual coverage on the federally run exchange, which covers 10 percent of those with health care in the state. A 32.5 percent jump in individual premiums is expected statewide, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Insurance. People with insurance through an employer, Medicare or Medicaid don't have to worry about the rate increase.

A woman looking at the Healthcare.gov internet site. GETTY IMAGES

Large national insurers including Aetna Inc., UnitedHealth Group Inc. and Anthem Inc. have said they are losing money on the exchanges, created under President Barack Obama's national health-care reform law, because patient costs are higher than anticipated and enrollment is lower than forecast. Both UnitedHealth and Aetna have pulled out of the exchanges for 2017.

As a result, consumers will have fewer plans to choose from. In 2017, in five states there will be offerings from only one insurance company. The government expects average monthly 2017 enrollment of 11.4 million people, up about 1 million from 2016.

Obama acknowledged last week that the law is not working perfectly but said the problems could be fixed if lawmakers created a government-run health insurance option that would help U.S. states where there is little or no competition.

Premium increases have become fodder for the presidential race, as Republican candidate Donald Trump calls for the repeal of the Affordable Care Act if he is elected and Democrat Hillary Clinton calls for expanding it.

The news "shows why the entire program must be repealed and replaced … Mr. Trump knows the only way to fix our nation's failing health care system is complete and total reform," said Trump communications adviser Jason Miller.

The government agency said the 2017 premium increase comes after two years of very low increases in the marketplace for the second-lowest cost "silver" plan, the benchmark plan used to calculate cost-sharing subsidies.

Average premiums for the silver plan increased 2 percent in 2015 and were up 7 percent in 2016, the agency said.

The figure reflects premiums on Healthcare.gov, the federally run website that sells plans for about two-thirds of the states. Including four states and the District of Columbia, which run their own insurance marketplaces, and those that have reported data, the average premium rose 22 percent, the agency said.

REUTERS

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# Target to offer more deals, extend free shipping until January

Target Corp. will offer more deal-driven promotions and extend its free shipping window to January this holiday season as it looks to turn around performance in what has so far been a lackluster year for the retailer.

Target also expects consumer spending to remain robust in November and December despite uncertainty around the U.S. presidential elections. The holiday shopping season is an important time for retailers during which they earn an outsized portion of their annual profits and sales.

"We are looking at very low unemployment, fuel prices remain low, the commodity pressure on food is down," Chief Executive Officer Brian Cornell told reporters in a meeting on Tuesday. "The overall approach for the consumer is going to be positive this season."

Target seeks more sales. GETTY IMAGES

Improving performance during the holiday months is crucial for Target. After a slow first half of the year, the retailer has warned of flat or slightly lower same-store sales for the second half of 2016, as shoppers turn to the internet and spend on big-ticket items like cars and home renovations, rather than small, discretionary purchases that make up the bulk of Target's offerings.

The Minneapolis-based retailer said it will offer more deals this year under its program Ten Days of Deals.

Target will also extend its free shipping offer until Jan. 1 this year from Dec. 25 last year and drop shipping fees for all online orders for a third year in a row. The retailer currently requires a minimum online order of $25 to qualify for free shipping.

Free shipping boosted Target's digital sales growth to over 30 percent during the fourth quarter last year and is a key strategy that allows it to better compete with rivals like Amazon.com Inc. REUTERS

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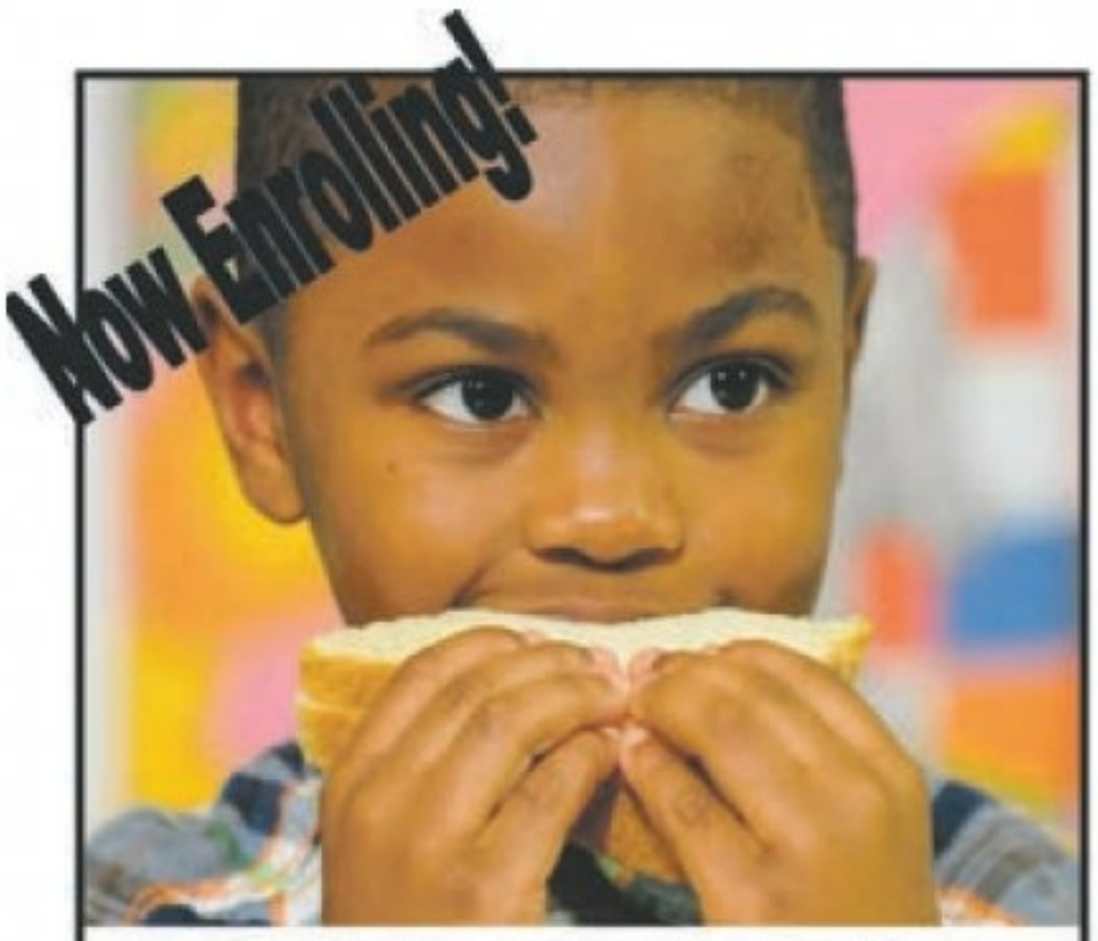


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# Ex-Oppenheimer adviser to plead guilty in US to insider trading

David Hobson, 47, will plead guilty in Manhattan federal court to conspiracy and securities fraud charges over conduct prosecutors said began while he was at Royal Bank of Canada unit RBC Capital Markets and then continued at Oppenheimer & Co. Inc., Michael Bowers, his lawyer, said in an email.

A former investment adviser at an Oppenheimer Holdings unit plans to plead guilty to charges that he traded on inside information supplied by a friend working at Pfizer, according to his lawyer.

Hobson, a Providence, Rhode Island, resident, would be the second individual to admit guilt in the case, after Michael Maciocio, Hobson's friend at Pfizer, pleaded guilty in May and reached a deal with prosecutors.

The case was announced in June amid a resurgence of insider trading cases this year in Manhattan, where prosecutors have wrestled with a 2014 appellate ruling that limited the scope of insider trading laws.

According to prosecutors, Hobson and Maciocio engaged in an insider trading scheme from 2008 to 2014 based on information obtained by Maciocio, a director of chemical research and development at Pfizer.

In that job, Maciocio sometimes evaluated Pfizer's capacity to manufacture drugs being developed by other companies Pfizer considered potential acquisition targets or partners, authorities said.

While Maciocio was not typically given the identity of a company in a potential deal, with Hobson's help he performed research to discern its identity, the indictment said.

After identifying the company, Maciocio then passed the information to Hobson, his stockbroker, who executed trades in accounts belonging to himself, Maciocio and clients of Oppenheimer and RBC, prosecutors said. REUTERS


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# Apple iPhone sales beat estimates

Customers attend the Apple iPhone 7 launch. GETTY IMAGES

Apple Inc. sold more iPhones than Wall Street had expected in the latest quarter, and the company forecast higher-than-expected revenue for the critical holiday-shopping season.

The world's most valuable publicly traded company said on Tuesday it sold 45.51 million iPhones in the three months ending Sept. 24, beating the average analysts' estimate of 44.8 million, according to research firm FactSet StreetAccount.

However, it was the third quarter in a row of falling iPhone sales. Apple sold 48.05 million smartphones in the year-earlier period.

Apple forecast revenue of between $76 billion and $78 billion for the current quarter. Analysts, on average, had expected $75.08 billion, according to Thomson Reuters.

Revenue in the latest quarter fell 9 percent to $46.85 billion, the third straight decline.

That meant annual revenue fell for the first time since 2001, highlighting the slowdown in the smartphone market as well as intensifying competition, particularly from Chinese rivals.

Analysts had expected revenue of $46.94 billion in the quarter, according to Thomson Reuters

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# the word

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## Kendall Jenner's stalker gets off

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Kim is not the only Kardashian sister having a rough month. Nearly two weeks after her older sister was robbed at gunpoint in Paris, Kendall Jenner had to testify against a stalker, Shavaughn McKenzie, who showed up at her house in August and followed her into her gated driveway. Kendall was able to drive away and call the police. The intruder was then charged with stalking and trespassing.

But now the verdict is in, reports TMZ, and McKenzie has been convicted only of trespassing, clearly the lesser of the two charges. This obviously isn't good news for Kendall, who was so afraid after her run-in with Shavaughn that she stayed with neighbors. What does security and privacy look like for a family who has built their empire on being so public and easily accessible? How can we "Keep Up" if now they want us to keep out? Don't ruin this for us, people.

## Are Amber Rose and Val Chmerkovskiy dating?

@IAMVALC/INSTAGRAM

Amber Rose had a birthday pool party over the weekend, and her "Dancing with the Stars" partner, Val Chmerkovskiy, got the dating rumor mill going when he posted a photo of the pair looking pretty cozy on Instagram.

Val neither confirmed nor denied that the two were dating, but we think it's a bit of a reach. They just spent over a month intertwining their bodies on national TV. C'mon … that warrants an invite to the birthday party. While some see the questionable kissy pic as evidence, we think it's just Muva being Muva. And Amber's thing for tattooed rappers makes her and Val seem like even more of a stretch.

But still — it's fun to speculate. And we can be all "we definitely saw this coming" if it turns out to be true.

## Chelsea Handler sticks up for bestie Jennifer Aniston

In a candid interview with Grazia Daily, Chelsea Handler talked about her new, grown-up talk show on Netflix and the issues that are important to her in this year's election. But the most satisfying bit from the 41-year old comedian was her takedown of media outlets that have dragged her BFF, Jennifer Aniston, into the fold of the Brangelina divorce.

She said, "It's so stupid and pathetic. As if Jen cares — she doesn't care. It's ridiculous that people still drag her into this. Hello, as if she is sitting around even caring about this." And we have to agree. It's a huge insult to Aniston to suggest that she's still praying for Brad's demise 11 years — and not to mention, a new husband — later.

But if Aniston did cackle and have a drink to celebrate the end of Brangelina, we'd support that, too. Everyone deserves to be petty sometimes.

## Judge Judy owns a photographer while leaving dinner

Judge Judy is just as bold and demanding leaving dinner as she is behind the bench. The 74-year-old daytime-TV star was stopped by a TMZ reporter Monday night and asked if she had any plans to retire. It's clearly not something she has on her mind. She answered with this sassy retort: "Do I look like I need to retire?"

If that clap back wasn't enough, she completely shut him down while she signed an autograph, and made him snap a personal picture of her with an Australian couple. Like. A. Boss. We have no objections.

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# The church of Ry X

The Aussie artist brings his powerful, quiet energy to the main stage.

RACHEL RACZKA
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The shimmering emotive, genre-bending sounds of Australian singer-songwriter Ry X re-emerged in May with "Dawn," his debut from Infectious Records and Loma Vista Records. The artist, born Ry Cuming, already had a fan base to call his own thanks to a rather excellently aching 2013 EP and a song named "Berlin," that even Sam Smith couldn't resist covering. Now, side-project happy Ry X brings his solo act stateside, with an astute dedication to immerse his fans into his quietly soul-stirring world.

Ry X creates an atmospheric environment of sound and emotion with venues to match for his live shows. GETTY IMAGES

**Your music evokes such hushed, intimate vibes — how do you recreate that on stage?**

I think the most intimate thing you can do is be fully present with people. That's the big part of it. I set the tone before anything musically happens, with the lights and the way things feel and the way things sound. I'm into curating a full experience, and intimacy comes with that. It's hard to play at big festivals when you're playing for 20,000-plus people. But in that context for us, when we're playing, no one talks during Ry X. It's a beautiful feeling.

**When did creating a full experience become important to you as an artist? When did you decide that the live experience is more than just music?**

It's a lot of who I am. It's important that its integrity is what I believe in creatively because everything becomes an expression. I want to spend as much of myself on these things. I see it as giving people a vision of how I interpret things. I think it takes a certain sense of maturity [as an artist] to get to that place.

**Did you ever feel like a venue's vibe was out of your control? Where you just didn't think the actual location worked with your sound?**

Yeah, of course. That happens sometimes, but not as much anymore. In that state, it's important to go in and just focus on the music and connect. Like I said, it's hard to control the context in festivals. All you can do is connect with who you're playing with and it's amazing when they connect back. It's very humbling. Sometimes you lose the ability to stay intimate with an audience, and you just have to be honest. You have to deliver.

**Do you think having a background in grunge music and performing that genre live affects your stage presence now as Ry X?**

Yeah, even now, I have a couple projects and iterations so I can experience different energies on stage. I'm not stuck in one way of being, I think. I don't have to walk onstage and just perform. I can feel like I'm honest with who I am. Those experiences from being in grunge bands have definitely helped me stay human on stage.

**Can we talk about the single-take tracks on "Dawn," like "Only"? What drove your decision to record that way?**

Half of the album was a single live take. It was just me in a room with one or two mics and a guitar. There's no way to edit that. There's no way to make it sound better. I love the finality of that.

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Clint, left, in a surgery during filming. ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED

# 'Life at Vet U' captures the real life drama of Penn Vet

We chat with one of its cast members, Clint Kuban.

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If you love animals, "Life at Vet U" is a show you should be watching. Airing on Saturday nights, it follows the lives of six students on their journey to graduate from the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine in Philadelphia. Veterinarian Clint Kuban has since graduated, but took time to talk about his time on the show, what inspired him to become a vet and filled us in on what it's like to work with a camera watching your every move.

**What made you want to become a vet?**

I actually didn't know I wanted to be a vet until I graduated as an undergrad from the University of Hartford. Initially, I was a major in psychology with a minor in criminal justice. I didn't know exactly what I wanted to do with my life, but in the late half of my career at the University of Hartford, I had some extra credits so I decided to take organic chemistry — just because I wanted to. I found out that I loved it. I grew up with two dogs and three cats. My father really had this passion and respect for animals. Once I graduated from Hartford, I decided to go for vet med.

**What's the process to become a vet?**

It's four years of vet school, but apart of that there are also prerequisites you have to take in your undergraduate. So four years of undergraduate and four years of vet school. Then, if you want to go on to a residency and specialize, you have to do your one-year internship and then a three-year residency.

**That's a lot of dedication. Now how long did you film the show for?**

It was very dependent on the cases that we had. They filmed us for the last three months of our vet school career, including graduation. In the morning, we would get a text from the crew, "Do you guys have any cool cases coming in today?" You know it was really a unique show in that it didn't have any type of say in what happened. It was just there to observe. This is such a dramatic profession in that we deal with these crazy, intense, really sad cases — but also really happy ones.

**What's it like having the production team in the room with you when you're working?**

At first it was a strange thing to get used to — having a big camera there. But I've gotten very used to getting in the room and really connecting with the client and really paying a lot of attention to my patient. So it was pretty easy to kind of ignore the cameras and just focus on my job.

**Do you think the show is good for Penn Vet?**

Absolutely. It's going to do wonders. Just in the very first episode, Dr. Brady Beale doing the cataract surgery. She is such a rock star and it kind of shows the world the really advanced techniques we have available at Penn Vet. It is kind of your one stop shop for the cutting-edge of science and I am sure a lot of people have come to Penn Vet since the show was aired, seeking the same type of treatment for their animals.

Clint has since graduated from Penn Vet.

*An all-new episode of "Life at Vet U" airs on Saturday at 10 p.m. on Animal Planet.*

# Please care about climate change again

Leonardo DiCaprio tries to educate us about climate change (again) in Fisher Stevens' "Before the Flood," which will premiere on National Geographic on Oct. 30 and be available on NatGeoTV.com free the same day.
RATPAC DOCUMENTARY FILMS, GREENHOUR CORPORATION

Fisher Stevens wants you to think about climate change. Even if you're just talking about it is fine. Because we don't anymore, not really. It's no longer at the forefront of political arguments. That's disturbing. Because in the decade since Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth," climate change has gotten worse. Stevens, a filmmaker ("Stand Up Guys") as well as a prolific actor (he might be best-known for the "Short Circuit" movies), tries to make it a talking point again with "Before the Flood," which upgrades from stodgy Al Gore to pretty Leonardo DiCaprio. The film follows the Oscar-winner as he travels the globe, talks to experts and tries to get us worked up enough to take action.

We spoke to Stevens about how things have gotten worse.

GETTY IMAGES

**It's really chilling that climate change never came up in the three presidential debates, except for a brief mention where Trump said he never called it a hoax created by China, which, of course, he did.**

What's even crazier is I read that in 2012 climate change never came up during the Romney-Obama debates. I find that really hard to believe, especially since Obama has become this environmental warrior. Hopefully when Hillary's president she is going to not only take up where Obama left off but go further. And now that Roger Ailes is out of Fox News, I'm hoping they start to shift a little bit. A lot of this climate denialism is because of Roger Ailes. It wasn't always a bipartisan issue. Fox News tried to polarize it, then Breitbart jumped on. It's really sad. George W. Bush, not that he was great with climate, but he certainly wasn't a climate denier. And his father really believed in the environment.

**No offense intended here, but the existence of this film is depressing. "An Inconvenient Truth" was a huge deal, but 10 years later and we're still at square one.**

We're a lot worse off. We're better because solar and wind is so much cheaper. We're better off because of the Paris Climate Accords. Then again, that just happened and they don't even start some of it till 2018. And the population keeps growing. You can't breathe in New Delhi and other places. It's a bummer. [Laughs] No one took Al seriously.

**One thing I really didn't know is what's happening in Miami Beach. The water levels are rising so much that streets are often flooded. The mayor has taken steps to combat this, but Sen. Rubio is a climate denier, and so is the governor.**

You go to Miami and you feel climate change more than any place I've been in the United States, after Louisiana. When we filmed there, at night the water started seeping up where our hotel was. There was excrement floating down our street. That's why the mayor is so great: He says, "Come down to Miami Beach, see it first-hand."

**Deniers grumble about not being able to always feel it, or they bring snowballs onto the Senate floor as proof that the planet isn't heating up.**

That's why it's tough to get climate change in people's heads. Unless you really feel it right now, you don't give a crap about it.

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"Oasis: Supersonic" will screen today at the Ritz Five, 214 Walnut St., at 7 and 9:30 p.m. A24

## "Oasis: Supersonic"

**Director:** Mat Whitecross
**Genre:** Documentary
**Rating:** R

●●●●○

Subjects not breached in the Oasis doc "Supersonic": the band's rivalry with Blur, including the time Noel Gallagher said Damon Albarn and Alex Jones should "catch AIDS and die." Their stint on "Unplugged," when Liam dropped out due to "laryngitis," only to spend the show heckling Noel from the balcony. Anything after 1996. We mention these glaring omissions not to bury "Supersonic" — a movie, incidentally, in which the word "Britpop" is never once uttered — but to perversely praise it. It's exactly the Oasis movie the battling Gallagher brothers would have wanted, and not just because they're executive producers. And in a way, that's a beautiful thing.

In the mid-'90s, Oasis hit a land-speed record for biggest climb followed by fastest burnout. "Supersonic" has the unenviable task of defending the uncool, while asking you to spend time with a pair who were comparing themselves to The Beatles before their first album was even recorded. The latter hurdle is the easiest to overcome: The Gallaghers are hilarious. When reduced to contextless sound bites, these ball-busting Mancunians sounded tiresome; when given two hours to spread out their cheeky bile, it's easier to surrender to their peculiar blend of the cocksure and a soupcon of very English self-deprecation — and to enjoy some obviously very choice one-liners.

Only covering a handful of wild (if hardly Zeppelin-level) years, "Supersonic" is a deep-dive made in the intoxicating house style of producer Asif Kapadia ("Senna," "Amy"). That's to say no talking heads invade the screen. Instead, our eyes are adrift in a sea of archival footage, with gut-busting testimonials fighting to be heard over the band's thunderous sounds. Come for Noel's uproarious rant against employing drummers; stay to hear "Rock N' Roll Star" booming through movie theater speakers.

By the end, even their boasting seems touching, heartbreaking, even. You watch a band often held together by Scotch tape and bubble gum — behold footage of their debut American show from 1994, in which they badly fumble through a set the night after taking meth for the first time — as they get so high on their fame that even they can't tell when they've reached peak Oasis. That came early, during their two-night sellout at Knebworth in 1996, with over a million turned away. "We should have stopped there," Noel says, wistfully. "Supersonic" could plod on, telling us all about "Heathen Chemistry," taking us all the way through (the apparently not bad) Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds. Instead, it grants them their wish and just stops while the gettin's good. MATT PRIGGE

Children gather at one of the lesson stations at last year's Howl-o-ween event. PSPCA

# The return of Howl-o-ween

PSPCA hosts a holiday event for families to find a furry friend.

BREANNA PEREZ
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Halloween is not about the stereotypical evil, black cats this year but instead the cute and cuddly ones that are up for adoption. On Oct. 29, the Pennsylvania SPCA (PSPCA) is hosting the second annual Howl-o-ween event at the organization's headquarters on Erie Avenue. Howl-o-ween is a free, family friendly event that will include educational activities, craft making for the shelter animals, a scavenger hunt with prizes, story time, Halloween-themed treats and discounted adoptions. The family activities will occur from 12-2 p.m., with the adoption promotion on all cats and dogs continuing until 6 p.m.

The activities and crafts will be animal-themed in light of their mission at the organization and all animals will be discounted within a range of 10 percent to 50 percent off during the promotion. To add to the family fun, all three of the PSPCA's locations, which include Erie Avenue, Fishtown and Danville, will run the promotion for discounted adoptions throughout the weekend of Oct. 29-31.

Parents, guardians or chaperones must accompany their children and be present during all the activities. There is also free, on-site parking for participants.

The PSPCA is a nonprofit organization that has dedicated their mission to rescuing animals from abusive and neglectful environments in order to prevent animal cruelty. They are the leading advocate for animals since 1867.

Mandy Hood, the outreach and humane education manager, says, "We are really excited to host our second annual Howl-o-ween event. Last year it was a huge success with over 80 families participating in the fun and activities. It combines "howl"-o-ween fun with short, interactive lessons about animals at five different stations." She continued: "Topics include: how to safely greet a dog, the science behind medical exams for our pets, and service projects that involve making cat enrichment toys and promoting adoptable dogs."

If you are looking to add a furry friend to the family or even just looking for a family friendly activity to do this Halloween, this is the perfect chance. Come out and support the Pennsylvania SPCA's second annual Howl-o-ween event this Saturday.

## If you go

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# Northern Liberties

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## home

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LILY WILLIAMS
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There was a time, not too long ago, that one couldn't talk about Northern Liberties (NoLibs to locals), without uttering words like "hip" and "edgy." It was the land of artists' lofts and coffee shops, skinny jeans and Elvis Costello glasses. But the times, they are a changin'. Hipsters have largely moved north to grittier Fishtown and South Kensington. And today's NoLibs, while retaining its cool factor, has — like it's 30-something residents — settled into comfortable respectability.

Northern Liberties is the area roughly bounded by Girard Avenue to the north; Callowhill Street to the south; North Sixth Street to the west; and the Delaware River to the east.

Stephanie Somers, a Realtor with Re/Max Access and team leader of the Somers Team, remembers buying her first home in Northern Liberties a decade ago when the neighborhood was on the cusp of taking off. "There was a vibe that this was going to be a great place." Second Street, which runs like a plumb line through the neighborhood, was beginning to see commercial infrastructure. Somers calls it reminiscent of the Second Street of 70 years ago, when her mother could find everything she needed — from bread to shoes — along this bustling corridor. The mixed use Piazza at Schmidt's opened and there were high expectations that it would anchor the neighborhood.

In the wake of the mortgage estate crisis, however, businesses closed, homeowners found themselves in over their heads and banks weren't lending. The Piazza lost a number of commercial tenants, leaving the space looking abandoned and derelict.

Fast forward to 2016, though, and the neighborhood again seems on the verge of something big. The Second Street commercial corridor is rebounding and the Piazza was recently bought and rebranded Schmidt's Commons. Developers, drawn by relatively inexpensive real estate during the post-bubble years "gobbled up everything they could, and if they couldn't develop it, sat on it." Their patience is now paying off with a spate of new construction: big, luxurious townhouses with every modern amenity, attached parking and unobstructed views from roof decks.

Somers says the rebound is consumer-driven. Buyers are looking for an urban lifestyle that isn't congested. In NoLibs, "you're not squeezed into a high-rise. You can have a huge space and still be in the city."

While the median sale price for single family homes in the neighborhood is $564,000, that doesn't tell the whole story. A whopping 42 percent of the homes on the market right now are new construction, and the median sale price of these is $720,000.

The new properties may be pricey, but considering the amenities and lifestyle they offer, are well worth the price for the young, married professionals who are flocking here.

NoLibs is a pet friendly neighborhood, as well, with plenty of dog parks and lots of businesses catering to animals. Residents here have expendable income, and can afford a home that feels like an oasis. "Plus, they don't want to be little fish in a big pond," she explains. "When they go to their local coffee shop they want be greeted by a barista who knows how they like their latte."

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ON THE MARKET

## For sale

**974 N. Leithgow St.**
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This one-of-a-kind modern home is located on one of the most sought after and quietest blocks in Northern Liberties. The homeowner will enjoy the stunning open layout, high ceilings, recessed lighting and flawless hardwood floors throughout. The roof deck features fantastic Center City views, and a full finished basement is tricked out with projector movie theater.

*Contact: Noah Ostroff, Global Living Companies — Keller Williams, 215-337-4264, noah@phillyliving.com*

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## For rent

**828 N. Hancock St., Unit 1A**
**$2,100/month**
**2 bed, 1 bath**
This stunning two-bedroom loft features vaulted ceilings, glossy hardwood floors, exposed brick and industrial accents. The finished basement houses a cozy TV/media room. Nestled into North Hancock Street, this apartment is part of a multiunit building with thick walls and lots of open space to enjoy. Best of all, one parking spot is included in rent.

*Contact: Stephanie Somers, The Somers Team — Re/Max Access, 215-400-2600, stephanie@thesomersteam.com*

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## New in the neighborhood:

With nowhere for NoLibs to expand to the north and south, the neighborhood is pushing west toward Sixth and Seventh streets, and into areas that have traditionally been off limits like the Interstate 95 corridor and adjacent to the Market-Frankford El. Realtor Stephanie Somers say homes in these areas offer a good price point for investors or homeowners looking to get into this desirable neighborhood.

LOCAL HANGS

DEREK BRAD

## Standard Tap

Standard Tap was a NoLibs pioneer, drawing drinkers and diners to the area when it felt a bit like the Wild West. Today, it's a part of the fabric of the neighborhood, a comfortable place for locals and visitors alike to enjoy American gastropub fare and local beers on tap.
***901 N. Second St., standardtap.com***

## Heritage

A relative newcomer to Second Street, Heritage fits the neighborhood so well, it feels as if it has always been there. The menu highlights local, seasonal ingredients and the well-stocked bar features 36 draft beers and an impressive selection of whiskeys. Best of all, patrons can enjoy live jazz every evening.
***914 N. Second St., heritage.life***

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# Inside Look: 3 Center City homes under $1M (that don't suck)

Your weekly dose of #RealEstatePorn goes frugal.

ALEXIS SACHDEV
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The average listing price for a home in Rittenhouse is just shy of $1.4 million as of this week.

And that's expected go up, as are areas surrounding the coveted neighborhood, too.

But all that glitters isn't gold. In a city where the average home price is really in the $200 grand range, you don't need to drop seven or eight figures to be a homeowner of a place you're proud of, or one that gives you accessibility to what you want. To prove it, we scoped out five homes in Center City, from Fitler Square to Old City and everything in between to prove that you can spend less than seven for a house that doesn't suck.

2407 Delancy St. BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY

## 2407 Delancey St.

**Price: $950,000**

This mid-century stunner is definitely on the higher end of our price requirement, but with waterfront views from the rooftop, garage parking and tons of space with natural light, we hope you'll understand why this Fitler Square stunner made the top of our list.

**Features:** Two bedrooms, two full ensuite bathrooms, mid-century modern built-ins, a wood-burning fireplace, granite countertops and high end appliances in the kitchen, and a private garage with a separate entrance to the house.

**Our favorite:** The natural light. Smartly placed skyline windows and lofted ceilings drench each room in sunlight from all directions, making it feel bright, airy and oh-so-relaxing.

7 N. Columbus Blvd. HOUSELENS

## 2119 Fitzwater St.

**Price: $725,000**

One-of-a-kind is an understatement here. This uber-modern spot looks rather unassuming from the sidewalk, but once inside, a newly renovated open concept house welcomes you. Graduate Hospital has never looked better … or at least, it won't from your covered, walk-out deck overlooking the garden.

**Features:** Three bedrooms, two full bathrooms, a lush backyard and garden area, exposed brick in the living room, spalike master bathroom with Italian-tiled shower and stone counters, and garage parking.

**Our favorite:** The kitchen. Dual stoves, quartz countertops, eat-in breakfast bar, and state-of-the-art stainless steel appliances. It's the prime spot for hosting big family get-togethers or intimate parties.

## 7 N. Columbus Blvd.

**Price: $479,900**

**Features:** Three bedrooms, three full bathrooms, stunning views of the Delaware River marina and bridges, roof-top deck off the third floor, hardwood floors, tons of built-in storage, custom closets and cabinetry, stainless steel appliances, granite countertops and a breakfast bar, and an included parking spot.

**Our favorite:** The view, obviously.

2119 Fitzwater St. BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY

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# Sixers season preview: 3 things to be excited about, 3 to be concerned with

The Joel Embiid era is about to begin in Philadelphia when the 76ers host the Thunder to start the 2016-17 regular season Wednesday.

ANDY JASNER
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Sixers fans hope Dario Saric and Joel Embiid are building blocks for a future NBA Championship contender. GETTY IMAGES

The 2016-17 regular season was supposed to be one filled with excitement for the 76ers.

As the season opens Wednesday night against the Oklahoma City Thunder, that excitement has been tempered a bit.

The Sixers weren't expected to make the playoffs, but they were supposed to be much improved. At some point in the future, they will be better.

As of now, the Sixers are an injury-riddled group. Instead of looking at matchups, head coach Brett Brown is forced to handle minute restrictions for up-and-coming players.

It all adds up to another difficult marathon for Sixers fans, who have watched the team win just 47 games combined over the last three seasons, including a miniscule 10 last season.

However, some pieces have been put in place for success down the road. There will be enjoyable moments for sure. Here are three things to be excited about:

## C and Jo Jo

Center Joel Embiid played an entire preseason and came through it healthy. Every time the big man hits the floor, every fan in the Delaware Valley has to be concerned. When you miss two full seasons with foot injuries, it's a natural reaction. Embiid displayed flashes of brilliance in the preseason with a variety of offensive moves in the post and defensive prowess as well. There were silly turnovers and rustiness, but all that must be expected. Embiid's minutes will be monitored, but he's a franchise cornerstone and worth watching the whole way.

## Simmons set to return…eventually

Ben Simmons will rejoin the team eventually, most likely after January while he recovers from a Jones fracture in his right foot. The former LSU standout was the Sixers' No. 1 overall pick and an early candidate for Rookie of the Year. The injury sustained during training camp doesn't diminish his future impact. If he can get on the court in the second half of the season, it would give the fans a major lift heading into the 2017-18 season.

## From Croatia with love

Dario Saric finally joined the Sixers after being selected in the first round (12th overall) in the 2014 draft. Almost immediately, Saric showed why he was so sought-after with the ability to knock down 3-pointers, sweep rebounds and run the court. He'll be a valuable addition and will receive more minutes with injuries to Nerlens Noel and Simmons. Coming off a long international season, Saric may have to rest at times, but he'll be a factor in the team's success.

Here are three things to be equally concerned about:

## Twin tower issues

Noel and Jahlil Okafor aren't healthy. Noel, who recently expressed his displeasure with the glut of big men on the roster, will be out at least three-to-five weeks following left knee surgery. When healthy, Noel is inconsistent at best on offense and defense, so this injury has to be considered a setback. Okafor had knee surgery and missed a chunk of time at the end of last season. Even now, he's still on the mend and not ready for 35 minutes per night. The Sixers need these two players to be healthy with a minute restriction on Embiid.

## What's the point?

Point guard has been a troubling position over the past three seasons. The Sixers brought in Jerryd Bayless for stability, but a ligament issue in his left wrist will have him sidelined for at least two weeks, maybe longer. So much for point guard depth. Sergio Rodriguez and T.J. McConnell will have to split the duties, but without Bayless, depth is a huge problem now.

## Culture club

The Sixers have lost 199 games over the last three seasons and the losing culture has certainly hurt the young players. If the Sixers get off to a miserable start once again, how will Brown rally them? He's done an amazing job thus far in a near impossible situation. Some wins along the way will help the young group. If it goes sour early, will the losses be too much to stomach?

## Prediction

In a perfect world, with a healthy team filled with young talent, the Sixers might exceed the 30-win mark. With the litany of injuries and lack of depth, the Sixers will struggle to find their rhythm, especially on the road. There will be improvement in certain areas, but the result won't be immediately noticeable on the scoreboard. Look for the Sixers to win 25 games and wind up back in the lottery.

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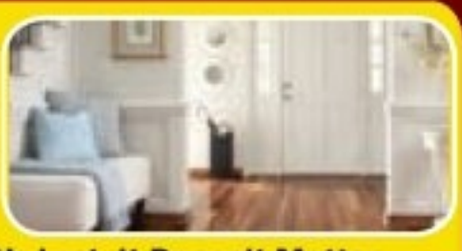

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# Union playoff preview: Can sluggish offense make season a success?

The Union faltered down the stretch, just barely making the postseason as the East's No. 6 seed.

JEFF MCMENAMIN
@Jeff_McMenamin
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The Union's quarterfinals match Wednesday begins at 7:30 p.m. and will air on ESPN2. GETTY IMAGES

The Union (11-14-9) are officially in the playoffs for the first time since 2011 as the sixth seed in the East. They'll kickoff the 2016 MLS playoffs on Wednesday night against third-seeded Toronto FC (14-9-11) in a knockout match.

There's not much good to draw from the team accomplishment. The Union have gone winless in their past seven matches (0-5-2), including 0-3-0 in their past three. They lost to the top-seeded New York Red Bulls (16-9-9), 2-0, at home on Sunday to end their season in emphatic despair.

"It's pro sports, so there's no celebrating when you lose," Union manager Jim Curtin said. "These guys are competitive, they're hard on themselves. It's no secret we've had a drop in form but we still have a good group."

The Union players were met with a shower of boos during several points during their match on Sunday. While the Eagles defense put together a smothering performance against the undefeated Minnesota Vikings in South Philly, the Union defense let in two goals just a few miles away in Chester.

"It's Philadelphia, first and foremost, so booing is popular," Curtin said. "It's normal when you don't win and they're entitled to boo. It's difficult for me because I feel bad for the players and the guys that put in such a good year. … If we started horrible and finished strong and we scrape it out at the end, I think it's a total shift in mindset and everyone's going nuts today."

The Union last faced Toronto FC on Sept. 24, coming away with a 1-1 draw. Their only other meeting this season was a 3-1 loss on Aug. 20.

"It's win or lose and go home," Union midfielder Alejandro Bedoya said. "We're away in Toronto, I'm sure they're going to bring their great crowd, great fans, so it's going to be a hostile environment. Hopefully everybody gets their head on their shoulders and pulls their socks up and is in there for the battle."

The Union have scored just five goals in their past seven matches (0.71 goals per game). It won't get any easier against Toronto FC, who finished the season tied for second in the MLS in goals against with just 39 given up.

"It is unfortunate, we are hitting a tough spot right now," Union goalie Andre Blake said. "As long as all the guys continue to believe that we can play on any given day, when we all go out and do the work, we can play against any team."

## 5 Players to watch in playoff game

These will be the top five guys to pay attention to when the first round of the MLS Playoffs kick off Wednesday night between the Union and Toronto FC.

### Sebastian Giovinco

Giovinco finished third in the MLS in scoring (17) this season and for good reason. The attacking midfielder from Italy can score in a variety of ways and is relentless on the offensive end. He also registered 15 assists on the year, which ranked second in the MLS. Simply put, when the ball is in his hands, he's dangerous to stop.

### Jozy Altidore

One of the most familiar faces in U.S. soccer history has done damage in Canada all year for Toronto FC. The 6-foot-1 forward, Altidore, netted 10 goals in his second season with the team and proved why he's still one of the most potent scorers in the U.S. when healthy.

### Andre Blake

Blake proved time and time again why he should be looked at as the MVP of this playoff-bound Union team. Blake saw 150 shots this season, saving 99 of them for a 1.56 goals against average. Many of the shots he turned away were of a high level of difficulty and kept the Union in games they should've had no business being in. He'll be called upon again on Wednesday night.

### Chris Pontius

The elder statesman in the Union's offensive attack turned out to be the team's most reliable scorer by the end of the season. Pontius' 12 goals led the team, and with C.J. Sapong and Fabian Herbers struggling to find the net as of late, he'll need to be in top form against Toronto FC to give this team a chance to win.

### Keegan Rosenberry

Keeping the ball away from the box will be the top task for the rookie Rosenberry. Once viewed as the consensus Rookie of the Year, his play has slipped of late and his grasp on the trophy has fallen. He's still one of the top right backs in the league and he can prove it once again on Wednesday.

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# NBA season preview: MVP, ROY, title picks

A look at the players and teams that will own the 2016-17 NBA season.

MATT BURKE
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The 2016-17 NBA season is upon us and the league has never looked stranger as we have transitioned out of the "superteam" era and into the "super-duper-universal-domination" team era. The Golden State Warriors, fresh off a 73-win season, added a player — a former MVP — that can be, on any given night, the best player on the planet.

The "Hey! That's unfair!" cries started immediately after Kevin Durant signed with Golden State on the Fourth of July, and many asked about the 2016-17 season, "What's the point?"

Well, the intrigue with this season will sit in two areas.

1. Just how dominant can the Warriors be? Will they average 35-point blowout wins this season? Will they look to hit 80 wins this season?

2. The entire league is now the David to the Warriors' Goliath. So basically, there are now 29 "good guy" teams and one "bad guy" team. Even the defending champion Cavs, with the passive-aggressive King, LeBron James, are "good guys" now. It'll be fun — and yes, intriguing — to see the entire league gang up on the bully by the Bay. There will be a point to the 2016-17 NBA season after all — even though there's a 98.6 percent chance that Durant and the Warriors will win the title next June.

## 2016-17 NBA MVP

There will be so much hatred, even among MVP voters, for Steph Curry, Durant and the Warriors that one of those two players winning MVP will be next to impossible. Both players will undoubtedly see their statistics dip.

As for LeBron — this is a regular season award only, and here's guessing the Cavs will take a giant chunk of the regular season off. In fact, it's easy to see the Cavs as a three or four seed in the East come April. With LeBron and Cavs playing possum for five months — his status as the best player in the league will take a small hit. So no, LeBron is not your man.

This leaves Russell Westbrook as your MVP. The guy is going to go all scorched earth on the league, obviously (never underestimate an NBA hipster scorned), and should average at least 30 points per game. In Durant's injury season, in which he played only 27 games, Westbrook averaged 28.1 points a game. Even if the Thunder are a seven or eight seed in the West (which I think they will be), Westbrook will get the most MVP sympathy votes of all-time.

***Your 2016-17 NBA MVP: Russell Westbrook***

## 2016-17 NBA Rookie of the Year

Here are the past five NBA Rookie of the Year winners: Karl-Anthony Towns (Timberwolves), Andrew Wiggins (Timberwolves), Michael Carter-Williams (76ers), Damian Lillard (Trail Blazers), Kyrie Irving (Cavaliers). What do they all have in common? They all played for sucky teams. No. 2 pick Brandon Ingram is on the Lakers, and the Lakers will suck.

***Your 2016-17 NBA Rookie of the Year: Brandon Ingram***

## 2016-17 NBA Finals

Guys, it's not going to take Kevin Durant, Steph Curry, Klay Thompson and Draymond Green more than three minutes to figure this thing out. They will be the greatest shooting team ever assembled and at times will look like the 1992 Dream Team playing against Angola.

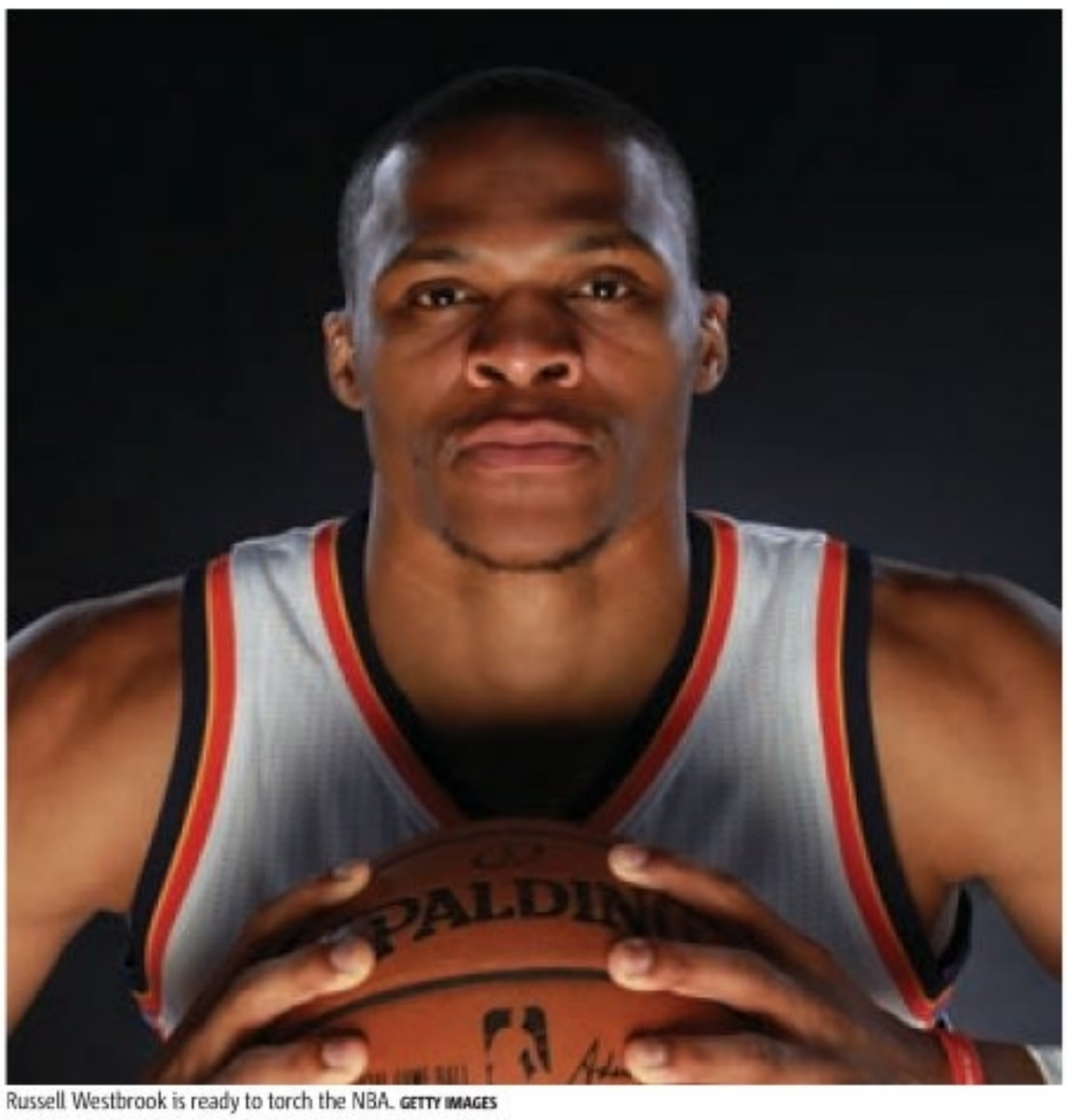
We really shouldn't overthink this. They're going to be beyond great.

When LeBron joined the Heat, Miami's win total jumped from 47 wins to 58 wins. This transition will be easier for the Warriors, but for the sake of argument, let's say the Warriors' win total also climbs by 11. This would mean the Warriors would go 84-0 in an 82-game season (don't rule it out).

So let's pencil in the Warriors out West.

In the East, I'm going with something of a surprise. The Cavs are destined to have one of the worst NBA regular season hangovers of all-time. That opens the door for a team like the Celtics to creep into the Finals ahead of schedule.

***Your 2016-17 NBA Finals: Warriors over Celtics in four***



Russell Westbrook is ready to torch the NBA. GETTY IMAGES

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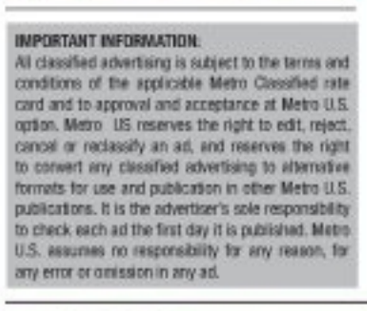


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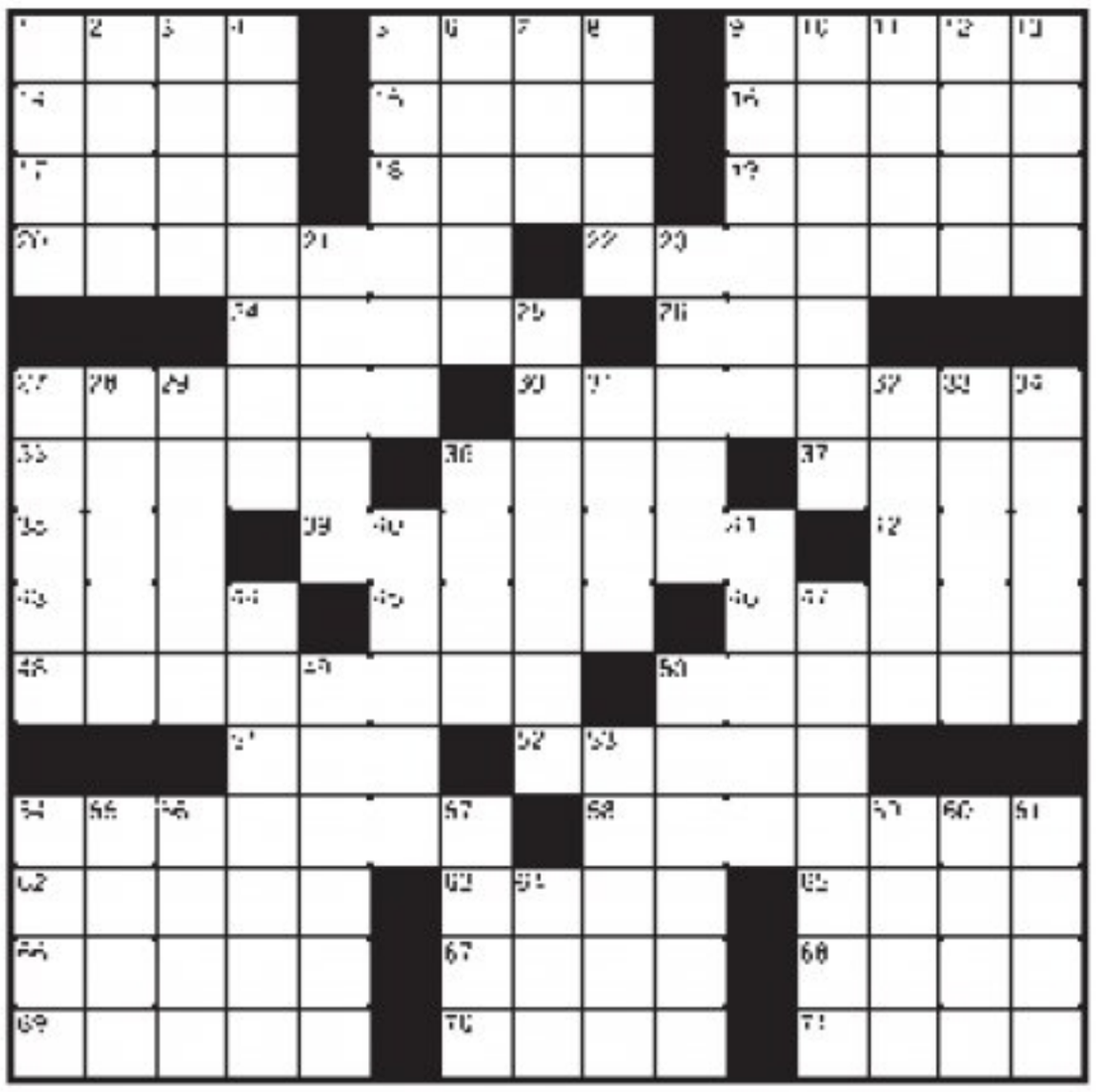
# metro.us/games

# metro.us/crossword

**Across**
1 Redness typified
5 Wingspread
9 Bamboo muncher
14 Clay pot
15 Actual
16 Mukluk wearer
17 Beat to a froth
18 Home furnishings
19 Overly trusting
20 Tryst
22 Squeeze
24 Young screecher
26 Born as
27 Like diet colas (hyph.)
30 Least wan
35 About bees
36 Berra of baseball
37 Golda of politics
38 Cookie sheet
39 Trounce
42 Country addr.
43 SASE, e.g.
45 Just
46 Kayak cousin
48 Go over the lines
50 Willow shoots
51 Compete at an auction
52 Regatta entrant
54 Floated down the street?
58 Grain cutters
62 Turk's neighbor
63 Magnum venue
65 Countess's husband
66 Bishop's law
67 10-4 buddy
68 1492 vessel
69 Open-back shoe
70 Follett and Howard
71 Large number

**Down**
1 Soup serving
2 Pre-college
3 Lamb's alias
4 Bland pudding
5 Walk
6 Trim a tree?
7 Mo. with no holidays
8 Robin's residence
9 Sounded on sonar
10 Disneyland site
11 Evening, to Pierre
12 Cheap nightspot
13 – – foot pole
21 Lake swimmers
23 Kind of ink
25 Dessert cart
27 Not now
28 Hazard a guess
29 Hoisting device
31 Sea, in a gale
32 Like a wolf's howl
33 Shankar's strings
34 Goes on safari
36 Sudden urges
40 Crowd
41 Undemanding, as a job
44 Beirut locale
47 Winter warmers
49 Helping out
50 Comes to mind
53 White as a sheet
54 Snapshots
55 Kazakh inland sea
56 Sari sporter
57 Wharf
59 Rain down, as arrows
60 Fish-eating flier
61 Burger side
64 Mr. Vigoda



# metro.us/sudoku

**easy**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | 7 | | 9 | |
| 6 | 3 | | | 4 | | 1 | 2 | |
| | 4 | 8 | | | 2 | 5 | | |
| | 6 | | 9 | | | 2 | | |
| 7 | | | | 2 | | | | 6 |
| | | 3 | | | 1 | | 5 | |
| | | 4 | 2 | | | 6 | 1 | |
| | 1 | 6 | | 9 | | | 8 | 5 |
| | 8 | | 7 | | | | | |

**hard**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 4 | 8 | | 3 | | | | 6 |
| 3 | | | 9 | 4 | | | | |
| | 7 | 9 | | 5 | | 4 | 8 | |
| | | | 8 | | | 2 | | |
| | 8 | | | | | | 7 | |
| | | 2 | | | 3 | | | |
| | 9 | 4 | | 8 | | 1 | 6 | |
| | | | | 9 | 6 | | | 2 |
| 6 | | | | 7 | | 8 | 3 | |

# metro.us/horoscopes

**Aries** If you look for a moneymaking opportunity, you will find one. A new job, contract or skill will lead to a higher income. An unexpected gift or windfall is apparent.

**Taurus** Get cracking. A hands-on approach to whatever you do will help you gain respect and give you the control you need to finish what you start and reap the rewards.

**Gemini** You need to be more careful when dealing with matters that might affect your income. Put your money in a safe place and focus on positive personal changes.

**Cancer** You don't have to do everything all at once. Set up a practical schedule and stick to it. Your tenacity and hard work will pay off and impress onlookers.

**Leo** Take care of your health, wealth and emotional well-being. The changes you want to make will meet with opposition from someone who is jealous of you.

**Virgo** Emotions will be difficult to control and are best dealt with carefully. Acting on an assumption will only make things worse. Talk to someone you trust for guidance.

**Libra** Keep your thoughts to yourself. Situations will rapidly get blown out of proportion if you are too quick to criticize. Focus on yourself, not on trying to change others.

**Scorpio** Consider the consequences of an imminent decision before moving forward. A couple of changes on your part will make it easier to bypass opposition.

**Sagittarius** Be cautious when dealing with others. Counter anyone trying to interfere in your personal life. Make plans secretively and don't divulge your next move.

**Capricorn** An unexpected offer will have its pluses and minuses. Don't toss aside your strategy for someone else's wild idea. Put some effort behind your dream.

**Aquarius** Don't think about change when you can make it happen. You have what it takes to control any situation. Seize the moment and proceed full speed ahead.

**Pisces** Your dedication to and involvement in events that can change history or influence your lifestyle will be appreciated and rewarded. Negotiate and move forward. EUGENIA LAST

## Yesterday's answers

Can't wait until tomorrow to check your answers? Visit metro.us

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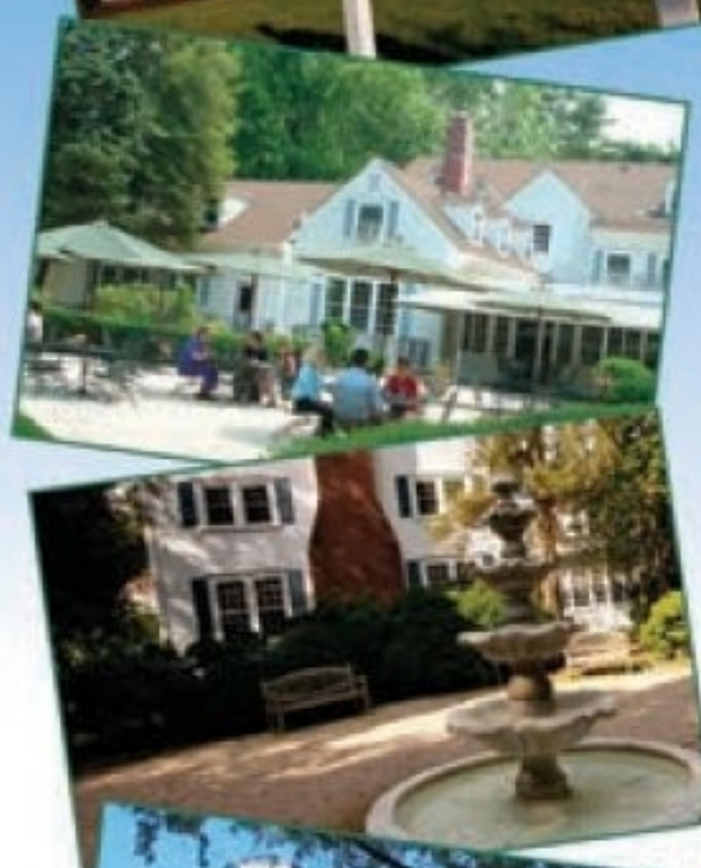

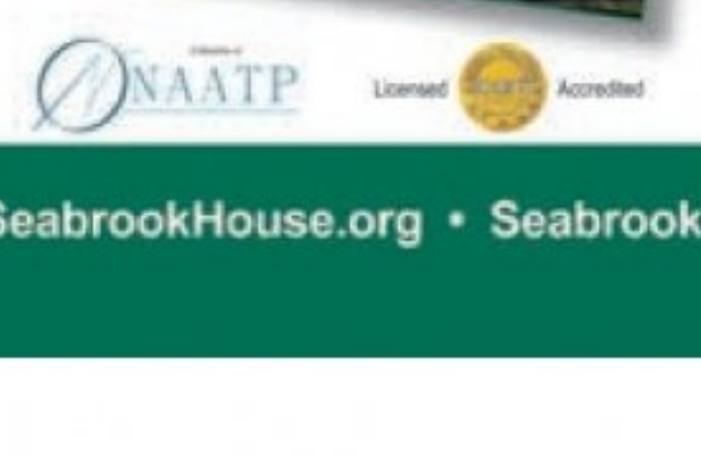

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